

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BUENOS 08451 302215Z

66

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 /074 W

----- 066052

R 302045Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3973

INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 8451

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, AR

SUBJECT: MRS. PERON CHANGES TACTICS ON CORRUPTION ISSUE

1. HAVING ALREADY LOST HER BATTLE TO BLOCK CONGRESSIONAL INVESTIGATION

OF CORRUPTION IN THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH, MRS. PERON OVER THE WEEKEND CHANGED TACTICS AND REPORTEDLY INSTRUCTED MEMBERS OF HER GOVERNMENT TO COOPERATE WITH THE CONGRESSIONAL INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE. SHE CLEARLY ANTICIPATED A COURT RULING, ISSUED DECEMBER 29, BY FEDERAL ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE FRANCISCO MADARIAGA, THAT PAVES THE WAY FOR THE CONGRESSIONAL INVESTIGATION. GENERAL FATIGATTI, ON BEHALF OF THE CRUZADA, HAD FILED A PETITION IN FEDERAL COURT REQUESTING THAT THE INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE BE LEGALLY BARRED FROM LOOKING INTO THE CRUZADA'S AFFAIRS BECAUSE (A) "IT WOULD INTERFERE WITH A PARALLEL JUDICIAL INQUIRY," AND (B) IT IS "UNCONSTITUTIONAL BECAUSE IT VIOLATES THE PRINCIPLE OF SEPARATION OF POWERS." IN ITS RULING THE COURT REJECTED THESE ARGUMENTS, CONCLUDING THAT "IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO AFFIRM THAT THE INVESTIGATING COMMISSION IS ARBITRARY AND ILLEGAL." AS A RESULT, GENERAL FATIGATTI WHO HAS PREVIOUSLY REFUSED TO APPEAR, HAS BEEN CALLED TO TESTIFY BEFORE THE COMMITTEE TODAY. THE RULING MAY ALSO MEAN THAT MRS. PERON HERSELF WILL EVENTUALLY HAVE TO TESTIFY.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BUENOS 08451 302215Z

2. IN A RELATED DEVELOPMENT, MRS. PERON HAS OFFICIALLY

WITHDRAWN LOPEZ REGA'S AMBASSADORIAL RANK. UNCONFIRMED REPORTS INDICATE THAT INTERIOR MINISTER ROBLEDO CONVINCED HER TO TAKE THIS ACTION IF LOPEZ REGA DID NOT RESPOND TO JUDGE FASOLINO'S SUBPOENA AND APPEAR FOR TESTIMONY AT 2:30 P.M. DECEMBER 29. NEEDLESS TO SAY, HE DID NOT APPEAR (SEE SEPTTEL) AND IT WOULD THUS SEEM THAT HIS "SPECIAL MISSION" (WHATEVER IT MAY HAVE BEEN) HAS BEEN CANCELED. THE PRACTICAL IMPACT OF WITHDRAWING HIS AMBASSADORIAL RANK WILL BE VERY LITTLE SINCE, ACCORDING TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, HE WAS NOT ON SALARY AND WOULD NOT HAVE IN ANY CASE BEEN PROTECTED FROM EXTRADITION BY HIS DIPLOMATIC STATUS.

3. COMMENT: BOTH MRS. PERON'S DECISION TO COOPERATE WITH THE COMMITTEE AND HER AGGREEMENT TO WITHDRAW LOPEZ REGA'S DIPLOMATIC TITLE ARE CLEARLY SIMPLY TACTICAL MANEUVERS. HAVING BEEN SOUNDLY DEFEATED IN HER EFFORTS TO BLOCK AND FRUSTRATE THE INVESTIGATION, SHE IS NOW BELATEDLY TRYING TO GIVE THE IMPRESSION THAT SHE WISHES TO COOPERATE. AT THIS LATE DATE FEW WILL BELIEVE IT.

4. NEWS JUST IN THAT GENERAL FATIGATTI FAILED TO APPEAR THIS MORNING BEFORE CONGRESSIONAL INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE. A COMMITTEE MEMBER TOLD NEWSMEN THAT FATIGATTI SENT A MESSAGE SAYING THAT HE COULD NOT APPEAR TODAY "BECAUSE OF PRESSING BUSINESS AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE." WHILE HIS PRESENCE AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE HAS NOT BEEN CONFIRMED, THE FACT THAT HE HAS AVOIDED AN OUTRIGHT REFUSAL TO TESTIFY MAY MEAN THAT MRS. PERON WILL GIVE HIM THE GREEN LIGHT TO APPEAR AT SOME TIME IN THE NEAR FUTURE. ON THE OTHER HAND, HE MAY CONTINUE TO BE "TOO BUSY."
HILL

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CORRUPTION, POLITICAL SITUATION, PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION, INVESTIGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 DEC 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BUENOS08451
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750450-0620
From: BUENOS AIRES
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975125/aaaaaeic.tel
Line Count: 95
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 JUN 2003 by SmithRJ>; APPROVED <31 OCT 2003 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MRS. PERON CHANGES TACTICS ON CORRUPTION ISSUE
TAGS: PINT, AR, (PERON, MARIA ESTELA MARTINEZ DE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006